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IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Serial No.: 10/692,183)
Filed: October 23, 2003)
For: ROTARY BELT STERILIZER)
Applicant: Minoru Masuda and Yoshio Suzuki)
Art Unit: 1744)
Attorney Ref: 501/41430/Case 96)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 19, 2004.


James R. Foley

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant is not aware of any material prior art but, in an abundance of caution and candor, Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449.

The presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

Applicant first became aware of the references cited in this Information Disclosure Statement through a European Search Report dated March 31, 2004 which issued in connection with a corresponding European patent application.

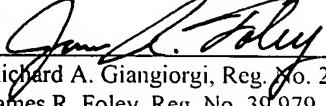
Three of the cited references are not in English. JP 09290989 is relevant in that it discloses a rotary belt sterilizer, JP 09208173 is relevant in that it discloses a hand rail sterilizing device for a passenger conveyor and JP 2002205890 is relevant in that it discloses a cleaning device for a handrail belt. A patent abstract in the English language has been provided for each Japanese reference.

A copy of JP09290989 is not available, however the patent abstract in English is attached.

Should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 19, 2004

By: 

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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 (Rev. 2-83)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE								ATTY. DOCKET NO. 501/41430/Case 96		SERIAL NO. 10/692,183			
		INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)								APPLICANT: Minoru Masuda and Yoshio Suzuki					
										FILING DATE: October 23, 2003		GROUP 1744			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS															
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		6	3	2	1	9	0	0		11/27/2001	Micklethwaite				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS															
		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
		JP	2002	2	0	5	8	9		0	7/23/2002			Japan	
JP	0	9	2	0	8	1	7	3	8/12/1997	Japan					✓
JP	0	9	2	9	0	9	8	9	11/11/1997	Japan					✓
															✓
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)															
			European Search Report dated March 31, 2004 which issued in connection with a corresponding European application.												
EXAMINER										DATE CONSIDERED					
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>															
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